Ap 1977

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

APRIL 1977

Sun. 3rd - Palm Sunday - Evening Communion
11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Rev. A. Nash

Mon. 4th - Pilots at 6.30 p.m. & every Monday
7.30 p.m. - Care Committee in Pennine Room

Wed. 6th - 7.30 p.m. - Sale of Branded Seconds, Bring & Buy & Home-made Cakes. Organised by "Young Mums"

- 7.30 p.m. - Whist Drive & every Wednesday

Thurs. 7th- Maundy Thursday
7.30 p.m. - Holy Communion

Fri. 8th - Good Friday
11 a.m. - Rev. A. Nash

Sun. 10th - Easter Day - "HE IS RISEN"
11 a.m. - Mrs. M. Nash
(No evening service)

Sun. 17th - 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Rev. A. Nash

Sat. 23rd - 7.30 p.m. - Christian Rendezvous at St. Stephens

Sun. 24th - 11 a.m. - Mrs. M. Nash
(No evening service at St. Stephens)
6 p.m. - Littleborough Anniversary to which you are all invited - Rev. A. Nash

Tues. 26th- 7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild Annual Rally Speaker - Mrs. Grisdale

Wed. 27th - 7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting

MAY 1977

Sun. 1st - 11 a.m. - Lay Preacher
6 p.m. - Rev. W. Llwellyn (Communion)

Tues. 3rd - 7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild

Tues. 10th- 7.30 p.m. - "This is Your Life", Bring & Buy Stall, Coffee Evening. Organised by Ladies Guild. 15p. including coffee.

N.B. Young Mums - Will not meet on 6th & 13th April. Reopen on 20th at 2 p.m.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

APRIL 1977

Sun.	3rd	10.30 a.m. - Mrs. M. Nash
Wed.	6th	7.45 p.m. - Choir Practice
Fri.	8th	10.30 a.m. - GOOD FRIDAY - Joint Service at Victoria St. Methodist Church
Sun.	10th	10.30 a.m. - Rev. A. Nash - Family Communion & Pilots Enrolment and Promotion Service
Wed.	13th	7.45 p.m. - Choir Practice
Sun.	17th	10.30 a.m. - Mr. J. Lord
Tue.	19th	7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild - Speaker Rev. A. Nash
Wed.	20th	6.45 p.m. - Pilots 7.45 p.m. - Choir Practice
Sun.	24th	10.30 a.m. - ANNIVERSARY - Rev. A. Nash - Our Life is a Pilgrimag 6.00 p.m. - Rev. A. Nash - Thanksgivi Service
Wed.	27th	6.45 p.m. - Pilots
Thur.	28th	7.30 p.m. - Mens' Fellowship - Mr. C. Barratt Collection of C.W.M. Jumble
Fri.	29th	7.00 p.m. - C.W.M. Jumble Sale

MAY 1977

Sun.	1st	10.30 a.m. - Mr. J. Lord
Mon.	2nd	7.30 p.m. - Junior Church Staff Meeting

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me, and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
You ask me how I know He lives -----
He lives within my heart!

From - The Manse
April 1977

My Dear Friends,

Early in this month we shall be celebrating the Christian Festival of Easter. It is an occasion that, like certain others, takes us straigl to Christ Himself and the whole dramatic story is well worth reading again, for there is always some fresh insight to be discovered. Have you, for instance, ever noticed the way many followers failed to recognise the risen Christ? One of these was too emotionally upset to do so. Two others were in the depths of despondency; another was unbelieving, and a whole group of others preoccupied with failure and defeat. Notice that the entire attitude of each was changed. As you read through the story you will find that each one of those disciples had to make their own personal discovery of the risen Christ and He came to each in order to make it possible.

This is, of course, just as true today. Every Christian should know whether they have to do with a crucified hero or the risen Christ - for it makes all the difference between a dead or living religion. We too, can be preoccupied with sorrow, or disappointment, or business, or social events, or a hundred and one other things, so that we are simply unaware that Christ is alive and wanting to make Himself known to us. It is well therefore to keep in mind that He said on another occasion, "Seek and you will find". So also the living Christ will be found by those who seek in faith. It is a great and wonderful thing for anyone to come fully and finally to know that they are dealing with this Christ whom neither sin nor death could overthrow.

May you and yours know the joy of the Presence of the RISEN CHRIST with you at all times.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

In Christ is life and that life is the light of m

OBITUARY

Mr. ERNEST PLATT - aged 77 years - of 37 Hurstead Road - died 19th February

Mrs. DOREEN BREWIN - aged 43 years - 47 Cornfield Street - died 4th March

Mr. THOMAS MARSH - aged 81 years - of 12 Albert Street - died 5th March

Funeral Services were conducted by Rev. A. Nash. Our thoughts and prayers are with relatives and friends at this time.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for THOU ART WITH ME".

TRIBUTE

It is with a deep sense of loss that we have to record the passing of Mrs. Doreen Brewin.

We remember her especially for her work with the Pilots at St. Stephen's and for all that she did for the Church here.

Friends at Smallbridge, where she was a Sunda School teacher, also wish to pay tribute and give thanks for all she was able to do there.

The Pilot Company at St. Stephen's wish to acknowledge with thanks the gift of £2 for their funds, received from Mr. Brewin and the family.

DEDICATION & BLESSING

On Sunday, 6th March -

KEELEY JAYNE

daughter of Keith and Brenda Brown,
54 Rochdale Road.

---- May God Bless this little one ---

MOVING ON

As we all know, April will be the month which sees the sad departure of Rev. & Mrs. Nash, who I know will be very much missed in both our churches, where their ministry and pastoral work has made them the appreciated friends and spiritual leaders of all in our congregations.

It is a fact that God never stands still, and, just as they are called to work elsewhere, so we will understand their departure as another corner for us to turn, and step out in faith in our search for the new minister the Lord would have us find, and use us as individuals and as a unit.

On behalf of us all, however, I would like to most sincerely thank Mr. & Mrs. Nash for their selfless service to our churches, and I know that you will join with me in praying that God will guide them and bless them in their new work in Belvedere, Kent, as they go forward in His Name.

Jenny Hemmings

YOUNG MUMS

April Programme:-

6th - No meeting at 2 p.m.
7.30 p.m. - SALE OF BRANDED SECONDS, BRING & BUY STALL, HOMEMADE CAKES.
Admission 10p. including refreshments, tickets available from Young Mums Members.

13th - No meeting

20th - 2 p.m. - General Chit-chat.

27th - 2 p.m. - Team Quiz - this will be Mrs. Nash's last Wednesday with us.

-- A warm welcome awaits all Young Mums --

Youth Club Quiz

On Tuesday, 22nd February, our Youth Club sent an enthusiastic team to join in the first round of the Rochdale Youth Clubs Quiz Competition at Culder Hill School. Unfortunately we were beaten in the first round by Long Street Youth Club, Middleton. However, our thanks to the team, Dion Connor, Peter & Michael Cocker and Ian Andrew for representing us, to our supporters, and to Mrs. Kathleen Reed for being chauffeur for the team.

Not to be beaten, we hope to enter the competition again next year.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

MILNROW:

1st Nicholas Hughes, 5th Charlene Clegg, 6th Christopher Lucas, 8th Terry Radcliffe, 12th Paula Bamford, 14th Scott Bamford, 15th Mark Ogden, 16th Alan Calow, 17th Fiona Sharples, 19th Neil Cudworth, 23rd Simon Rothwell.

LITTLEBOROUGH:

21st Karen Schofield, 23rd Denise Reynolds, 26th Stephen Fielding, 28th Deborah Holt.

The hood makes not the monk, nor the apparel the man. Robert Greene

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COLLECTIONS:

January - £145.45
February - £114.41

ABSENT FRIENDS

It is good to have news of Al and Angela Turner, who write to tell us how much they miss the many friends at St. Stephen's, and to enlighten us a little about their new Church, which is called the United Free Church in the Ecumenical Parish of Feltham.

This new Church has come about from a union between the Methodists and the U.R.C., and "a curious Church it produces". The Minister is, or was, a Methodist, the Secretary is U.R.C., the Treasurer, we think, was a Methodist. The Church has double stocks of everything. The Anglicans, whose Church nearby was burnt down, also use the building, with joint services on special occasions.

Thank you, Al and Angela. We look forward to having more news of you in the future. God Bless!

DECORATING FUND

We are well above our target of £250. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have made this possible - the Whist Drives - the many 30p's which have come in the little tubes - donations from this one and the other - the recent "knit-in" - and other sources.

We give thanks to God that He has put it into the hearts of so many folk to give the money whereby our Church has been made to look so beautiful.

Mrs. A. Wood submits this little anecdote.

A little girl was busy drawing, "What is that you're drawing" she was asked. "I'm drawing God" she replied. "But nobody knows what God looks like". "No" she agreed, "but they will when I've finished".

EASTER SERVICES AT ST. STEPHEN'S

7th April - Maundy Thursday
7.30 p.m. - Holy Communion

8th April - Good Friday
11 a.m. - Service of Meditation

10th April - Easter Day
11 a.m. - Family Service
Rejoice - HE IS RISEN -

Our Minister will conduct all these services

YOUNG MUMS

During the month of March we have enjoyed a very varied programme, prepared by different members. Linda gave us a general knowledge quiz, which we attacked in two teams. On the second Wednesday we had a "getting to know you" session, followed by a very informative talk and demonstration in Yoga by a guest speaker. Another talk given by a guest was on the art of make-up, and we rounded off the month with a discussion on "The Church and family life".

LADIES GUILD

Many thanks to all knitters and sponsors, the Knit-In raised £67. The Good as New and Jumble Sale were well supported, raising a total of £50.80.

On the 5th April our Minister will be giving us a talk. The service for our Rally will be at 7.30 p.m. on 26th April, the speaker Mrs. Dorothy Grisdale of Royton. Please come and bring a friend, refreshments are available afterwards.

Our May meeting will be Flower Arranging by Mrs. Aspinall, and the Guild Outing on 24th May is to Far Flat Head Farm. Ladies going on the outing please pay the balance by 15th May.

All ladies, any age, are very welcome at our Guild Meetings, first Tuesday each month.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

NORTH WEST PILOT CAMP:

At - Barnston Dale, Wirral, Cheshire.
From - After tea Friday, 29th April.
Until- After tea Sunday 1st May.
Cost - £5 for Pilots under 16 years.
£5.50 for Pilots over 16 years.
Deposit- 50p by Wednesday, 30th March please.

It is hoped that a large turn-out of parents and friends will attend the Pilots enrolment and promotion Service on Sunday 10th April, at 10.30 a.m.

COLLECTIONS

6th February - £20.36
13th February - £19.52
20th February - £13.19
27th February - £17.65

£36 for Junior Church Funds from the Branded Seconds Party. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

We have received quite a number of photographs of events which have taken place in our Church, but we would like more if you have any. We still have plenty of spaces to fill in our album.

We have a new stock of birthday cards which are still at very competitive prices, and can be purchased after the morning services.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Quite a number of our ladies attended the Women's World Day of Prayer Service at Smallbridge Methodist Church on Friday, 4th March.

The service this year was written by the women of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), and the theme was LOVE IN ACTION.

This was a very inspiring service, and the address was given by Rev. F. Parker. The solo was sung by Miss D. Hurst.

All denominations were well represented and apparently the collections amounted to £10. The ladies of Smallbridge provided a very welcome tea and biscuits after the service.

Ladies Day Services

Two very enjoyable services. Mrs. M. Jeffrey conducted morning service. The choir sang the introit "Jesus stand among us", and the anthem was "Lord Jesus Christ".

Mrs. B. Evans conducted afternoon service, when the choir sang the introit "Stand up and bless the Lord", and two anthems - "Christ is the King" and "Count your Blessings", and the Vesper was "God be in my Head".

Our Ladies acted as door stewards, collectors and readers for the day, and both services were very well attended.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!!!!

Mrs. R. Harrison (our new Choir Leader) would like to see many more volunteers come along to the choir practices on 6th, 13th and 20th April, for the Anniversay Service on 24th April. Do please make the effort (male and female) and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

JUMBLE SALE

In aid of C.W.M. Funds
29th April, 1977 at 7.00 p.m.
Admission - 3p.

Jumble will be received Thursday, 28th April, between 7 and 8.30 p.m. If you have jumble which needs collecting please contact Mrs. D. Leach.

Attention all Char Ladies and Gentlemen - during April it is hoped to spring clean the Church and Halls, in readiness for the Anniversary - the date to be announced in Church - so have your mops and buckets at the ready !!!!

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 24th April, 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Preacher - Rev. A.V.J. Nash, B.A.

Organist - Mr. A. Clegg

10.30 a.m. - Our Life is a Pilgrimage
6.00 p.m. - Thanksgiving Service

National Childrens' Home
11th April - 23rd April
Collectors wanted PLEASE
See Mrs. K. Mills

LADIES GUILD A.G.M.

Despite the rather bad weather, around 24 of our members attended the A.G.M. After the business of the meeting, Mrs. Nash looked back at what had been discussed at a meeting 3 years ago, then came the election of officers.

President - Mrs. M.G. Hill
Vice President - Mrs. K. Mills
Secretary - Mrs. A. Stott (re-elected)

Treasurer - Mrs. M.G.Hill (re-elected)
Auditor - Mrs. L. Holt (re-elected)
Committee - Mrs. P. Lightfoot, Mrs. P. Mullen, Mrs. E. Dunweil.

The meeting was closed by Mrs. Nash, after which supper was served.

Never Borrow Sorrow from Tomorrow

Deal only with the present, never step into tomorrow,
For God asks us just to trust Him, and to never borrow sorrow,
For the future is not ours to know and it may never be,
So let us live and give our best, and give it lavishly -
For to meet tomorrow's troubles before they are even ours
Is to anticipate the Saviour, and to doubt His all-wise powers,
So let us be content to solve our problems one by one,
Asking nothing of tomorrow, except "Thy will be done".

H. S. Rice

If we knew how to listen to God .....

If we knew how to listen to God, we should hear him speaking to us. For God does speak. He speaks in his Gospel; he speaks also through life - that new Gospel to which we ourselves add a page each day.

But because our faith is too weak and our life too earth-bound, we are rarely open to God's message

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH - APRIL

ELDERS

April 10	a.m.	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	Mr. J. Lord

DOOR STEWARDS

April 3rd	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	Mr. R.R.Mullen
10th	Mr. T. Fielden	Mrs. M.G.Hill
17th	Mrs. K. Mills	Miss W. Law
24th	ANNIVERSARY	
May 1st	Mr. G. Simpson	Mr. J. Hill

FLOWERS

April 3rd	Mrs. Wade
10th	Mrs. Priestley
17th	Mrs. E. Cryer
24th	ANNIVERSARY
May 1st	Mrs. Mullen

COFFEE

April 3rd	Mrs. J. Law	Mrs. P. Mullen
10th	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. J. Hobbs
17th	Mrs. J. Hey	Mrs. L. Stanton
24th	Mrs. S. Moss	Mrs. L. Mitchell
May 1st	Mrs. P. Lightfoot	Mrs. I. Simpson

FAMILY READINGS

April 3rd	Mrs. J. Law - Matthew 21: 1-11.
10th	Mrs. A. Stott - Mark 16: 1-8.
17th	Mrs. M.G. Hill - John 21: 1-7.
24th	ANNIVERSARY - Ephesians 6: 10-18.
May 1st	Mrs. H. Vincent - 1 Cor. 15: 1-11.

If you are unable to fufil your duties, please find a suitable substitute. Thank you!

N.B. All copy for next month's 'Messenger' must be in the hands of the Editor by April 17th.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW - APRIL

DOOR STEWARDS

April 3rd	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mr. H. Mellor
10th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. A. Baines
17th	Mrs. B. Clarence	Mrs. P. Royle
24th	Mrs. M. Holden	Kenneth
May 1st	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. H. Ogden

COMMUNION

April 3rd	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. A. Sharples
7th	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A. Busill
May 1st	Mr. H. Whitehead	Mr. I. Royle

	EVENING DOOR	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST EVENING
April 3rd	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. Logan
10th	Mrs. Howarth	Mr. Clough	Mrs. Hey
17th	Mr. Clough	Mr. Whitehead	Mrs. Starkie
24th	-	Mr. Royle	Mrs. Bradbury
May 1st	Mr. Sharples	Mr. Wild	Mr. Logan

FAMILY CHURCH READERS

April 3rd	Matthew 21: 1-11	Mrs. B. Clarence
10th	Mark 16: 1-8	Mrs. J. Calow
17th	John 21: 1-7	Mrs. M. Howarth
24th	Acts 19: 1-19	Mrs. M. Holden
May 1st	1 Cor. 15: 1-11	Mrs. P. Royle

COFFEE

April 3rd	Mrs. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
17th	Mrs. Cudworth	Mrs. A. Wood
24th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. Mellor
May 1st	Miss M. Wood	Mrs. Andrew

FLOWERS

April 3rd	Mrs. K. Hey	Mrs. Sampson
10th	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. C. Clough
17th	Mrs. Sharples	
24th	Mrs. C. Rothwell	Mrs. A. Lynch
May 1st	Mrs. E. Gowdridge	

MINISTER:

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